

# A WORLD of Wonders

## A MASSE of Murders

### A COVE of Colours

Containing many of the most horrible Wonders, horrible  
Murders and detestable Colours that have bene within this  
Isle.

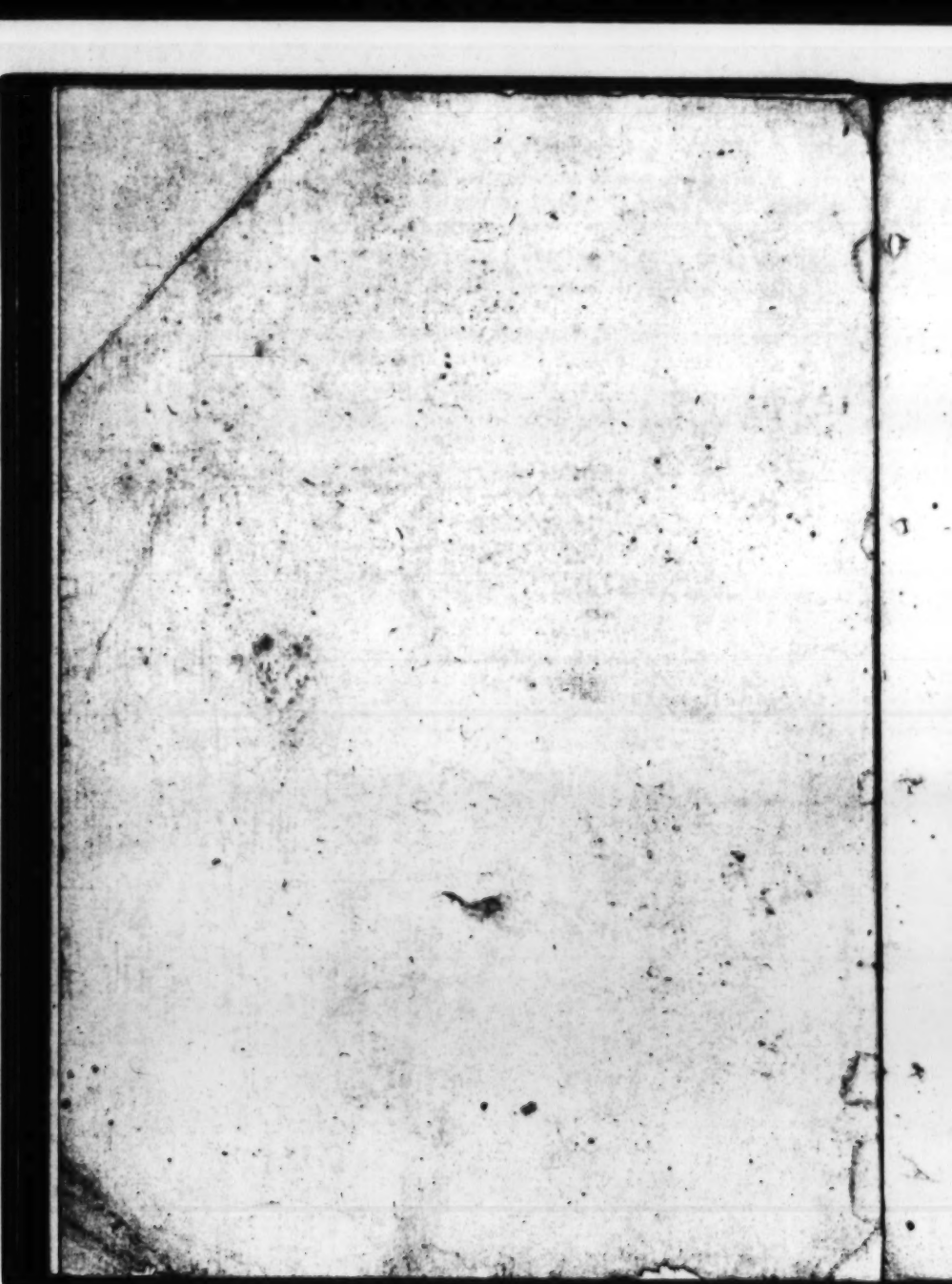
Not imagined false to delight your heads with, nor  
practised trade men to breed truth with  
ambiguities, but committed even  
at home & here, and may  
be proved with  
benefits.

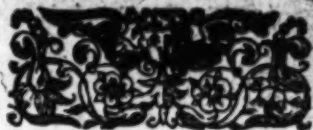
A matter more fit to be known, well wayed and  
considered of all men.

Who list of Wonders, and strange events to see  
The Masses of Murders in this Book, a Mass of doth  
Who will see with his eyes, of Colours and his  
Heart, in his heart, a Mass of doth appear  
In the first, first at the next, then at the next  
You list thou shalt a world of woes which here in time are



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## To the christian READER.

*grace, mercie and peace.*



Forasmuch (gentle and beneuolent Reader) as wee are now abyding in that same iron worlde wherof *Ouid* speaketh in which is small store of good frutes but such as barren soyles doe buy: Nature yeelds, to wit thistles, brambles & such like, whercof small gaine is to bee expected, wherwith mens harts are hardned, charitie chased, loue lacking truth thrust out of doores, liberalitie laide along, compassion coupled in chaines and all good and vertuous exercises either seldome vsed or vtterly extinct; as fire smothered vp in ashes, and in stede of these carnall and most vnnaturall murders, detestable periuries, cankerd couetousnes incestuous adulterie, hardnes of hart, peeuish extortion, exactions vsury and diuers such most horrible and abhominable practises yearly, monthly, nay howrely are vsed and practised. All which and other like to the learned are thought to bee moste euident and manifest signes, that that finall end that conclusion and shutting vp of these transitorie and vanities of this morall world are at hand and that Christ is euen readie to call vs vnto iudgement: and forasmuch as calling of Preachers, execution of lawes and iustice and other like woorketh but small amendment in vs, yet neuerthelesse because that signes threat, tokens of Gods wrath, signes in the ayre, murders, incest and such like heard of and seene with our corporall eyes although they be not in continuall remembrance to terrifye by vs from committing such abominations, yet doe they for the present time that they are seene, heard or done, sturre and moue vs vp to prayer to God to amendment of our sinful liues, to the horror of such wicked actions and such like.

A 2

And

## To the Reader.

And for this cause I haue collected these examples; not from  
straunge languages or from forraign nations which might breed  
some ambiguitie or doubt as touching the trueth, but I haue ta-  
ken them out of our owne native Cuntry (not without sorrow  
that such hainous sins & enormities should be so rife amongst  
vs) wherof can no doubt be made for traeth of action or ex-  
ception for processe of time or antiquitie, being done all for  
the most part within these few yeares within our memory with  
in our knowledge. All which I say are collected together in a  
redines as a pretious glasse to see the frailtie of man, to see  
the wickednesse of this world, the end of mischeifs, the pu-  
nishment of such greuous enormities & such like  
that therby, others seeing the same may refrain the  
like, and seeke to shunne such paths as  
lead to destruction which graunt  
vs so to doe hee that for sin-  
ners shed his pretious  
blood vpon the  
tree. Amen.

(v)

*Thine in Christ.*

T.J.



As





**A**S there is no fruite vvhich hath not first his bud then his flowver, thirdly his fruite and aftervard time for his ripenes. Euen so there is no villanie or vviolent fact that hath not first his motion and intent, next his opportunitie, thirdly his execution or committing of that fact and lastly his shame and punishment as may appeare by these examples.



### COVIE of Cosonages.



**W**H in these thre yere dwelled in Brodstreet within the Cittie of London a Chaundler, whose honest life, good connerlation, tyght dealing and christian zeale is yet manifestly to be knowen of the inhabitants wher he dwelled. Unto this youngman in a winters evening repaired a tall young man of a commendable proportion of body, if in his gifts had accorded therunto:

This man entering this Chaunders shoppe (where the goodman was busie in his vocation) & demanded if he had any Putmegges to sell, wherupon after hee had sene the Putmegges,

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demanded the price, he asked the Chaundler if he would buye a good bargaine of Putmegges and other wares: saying he was lately come out of the Carick and had certayne commodities to sell which he had kept till then, but now wanting money and coming into arrerages, with his host where he sojourned, was constrained to sell all his merchandize or at least some of them to discharge his lodging: the Chaundler ready (as all worldlings are) to get: After certayne speeches of bargaining, they grew to a composition and absolute bargaine, and therupon this halter catcher desired the Chaundler to take a bagge or two with him, to put in the commodities for the easier carriage, and also to put sixtene shillings in his purse to pay the host if he would not let the wares to passe (for so much he said he was runne on the score) The simple and plaine meaning Chaundler interpreting nothing lesse then cofenage toke to his box and tooke out from other money twentie and five shillings, and put it into an other purse by it selfe, and so taking the bagges marched all along from Breadstreet to Queen-hine where this thiboyne growing sonne, entering into a doze (fit as it seemeth his purpose) desired the Chaundler to stay at the doze, till he toke the bagges and filled them.

After some short space or time this negotiats birds came again to the Chaundler sitting at the doze and there certifying him that his host and he had berne at some speeches and that he would not let him haue the Putmegs till he had his sixtene shillings, and therfore desired him to let him haue sixtene shillings to pay him, and therewith delivered him a thing wrapped up in browne paper after the best fashion like to a peece of velvet which hee saide was rust taffata. this he left as gadge for the money till the Putmegs came, the Chaundler meaning plaine simplicitie delivered him his purse with the five and twentie shillings saying take thy purse you know I put in so much money, pay him out sixtene shillings, and keep the rest till we reckon.

Now the villaine is gonne, and the Chaundler waiteth for his Gentelman at the doze some halfe houre and more, and perceiving no likelyhood of his coming beganne to suspect some vnacquainted bargaine and therupon untied his paper to see what merchandize was therein which being opened he found nought but taylors shreds artificially placed and bound after the fashion

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fashion of peeces of taffata. Imagine now that the Chaundler is in his dumps, and there leaue him a while meditating vpon the profit of his bargain.

The caterpillar in the meane space making haste you may be assured out of a false back dore (whereof there may be to many in London more is the pittie) came home to the Chaunders house againe, & he thit before had bestowed each thing for his purpose, and had leene the box out of which the chaundler had taken out the five and twentieth shillings before, came to the chaunders boy, and sayd sirra you must send your maister twelve shillings wanting twopence out of the bore that hath the ragge of white cloth in it: the marke of the cloth he saw in the box & the quantitie of the money hee gesseb.

The boy gaue small trust to his wordes, and replied that hee knew no such box till he had him looke for the ragge and saide his maister had sent a porter that was coming in nutmegs, which nutmegs his maister charged should be laid out of sight in the back roome. notwithstanding for all this the boy would not deliuer him any money, but when he was importunate vpon him he desired an other boy of one of the neighbours to come in and take so much money and to goe with the man to his maister.

The matter concluded the neighbours boy had a s. s. and x. d. and going forth, this notorious confesser leade the boy into Saint Mary-axe to an other dore and bids the boy to stay & hee would call the chaundler to him. He went in and stayed a while & came againe to the boy saying that the chaundler was so busie that hee would not come to him but desired that he would send it him in, willing him to stay and carry a bagge of nutmegges home with him: the boy simply deliuered the money and stayed an houre for the bagge of nutmegges but as yet can not they be heard of.

In the meane time the chaundler cometh home but how disposed (God knoweth) where he findeth himself two false deceived, to his grief no doubt, and more in my iudgement for the wickednes of the man then for the losse of the money.

If this be not as notorious a knaurre as ever you heard off I refer it to your owne consideration.

How

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How a woman cofained a minifter  
often groates.

**A** Minifter who yet liueth godly difpofed, repayred vpon a day to Chriffs Church in London to heare the Lecture and continued there during the leſſon. Afterward departing thence, and coming into the open ſtreet, vpon the ſuddain came a woman vnto him with open mouth and commaunded him to giue her her ring. What ring ſaid the ſpouſer? the ring ſaid ſhe you take of my finger in the Church. Auaunt quene ſaid the minifter I haue nothing of thine and with that the woman made ſuch exclamations in the ſtreet, that the paſſengers gazed vpon them in ſuch ſorte that the ſpouſer aſhamed of ſuch an hurly burly demanded what her ring was worth, who answered that it was worth ſortie pence, and therupon, ſhe drake his gulle and gaue her tenne groates to be rid of the liſh.

An other.

**VV** Ethin theſe laſt twelue moneths euē at twy-light, an honeſt man and of good behauiour, came to enter London at Cripple-gate, vnto which gate as hee paſſed, ſuddainly met him a ſturdy fellow who iuſted him with his ſhoulder, & at that inſtant, vpon the other ſide of him, an other knave confederate with the other ſuppoſing that he would miſde the man that iuſted him, as indeed any man ſhould doe, caught the fellows cloke by the lap, and therewith turned him ſelf round, in ſuch ſorte that the honeſt mans cloke was lapped the inſide outwards vpon the cony-catchers back, and hauing his pray, ſed with ſwift heeles: the honeſt man, not withſtanding their iuſtling, remembered his cloke and therupon cryed ſtoppe theſe, the other knave that iuſted him neuer ſtirred his ſote but hearing the man cry ſtopp theſe, drew out his dagger and aſked where, where; and by that time people gathered as the vſuall order, the honeſt man ſaid that hee that had the dagger in his hand was he that iuſted him but whether he was his aſſociate that ran away with his cloke hee would not ſay. What a villaine is this queth the cony-catcher to make ſuch an hurly burly, thou art a diſſembling rogue ſaid he & take this

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this for thy labour and therewith stroke the poore man upon the head with his dagger, and by this meenes, lest he his cloke and was also cruelly beaten.

### Another.

**A**dd thing I haue begunne with Cloake-catching, betwixt an other knack of knavery, which was committed in Smithfeild at nene dayes. A certaine man walking or going in Smithfeild with a new cloke upon his back, there came to him of Plurocs bel-bountes, demanding what he might pay for his cloake: marry he said & other, it cost me five nobles, truly saide the other it is woorth that: I pray you where bought you it: at such a place said the other, and there you may haue of the very self same piece: at last the stranger desired the honest man that he might see it typon his back, if it were long enough for him, who meaning nothing but plaine dealing, put the cloke typon the others back and incontinent the theefe runneth away as fast as he might with the cloke, the true man cryed stoppe theefe stoppe theefe, and bee that was the theefe and ranne away, he cryed also stoppe theefe, stop theefe, the men in the street hearing both of them cry both one waite supposed that both they had runne after a third booy, and could not tell whome to stay, so that in conclusion, the theefe past away slyly with the cloke and so far as ever I could learne was ever heard of to this day.

### Another.

**A**d will ye yet heare stranger matters the truth whereof is, and may with small labour be knowne.

At the Sun without Alders-gate not long since there supped certaine Gentlemen and seruicingmen: Where Chamber prepared and supper ready, they sat downe to meat, among whom came in also an other man hated and spured and sat downe with them at the neither end of the Table, a more stranger to the rest, yet unsuspected, so that euery one thought he had bene some freind or acquaintance of some of the other, (as well it might be iudged) where many are together one thinking him to be such a



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in his acquaintance, the other thinking him to be his friend, &c.  
 They passed their supper time in mirth and paid the reckoning, among the which, this man found gree? orderly payde his share and having so done they sat talking till it was nigh to eleven of the clock at night and that all the companies were departed the Taverner, except this buncouth guest watching his time left the company & came to the bar where he found the boy that sat therein nodding a sleepe with money to the value of eight or tenne shillings in his hand into whose came this pygger and with thēnith softly meanes a wayes to take the money out of the boyes hand and did so indeed, the boy not fast in sleepe awaked, mist his money, search was made, the fellow not far was gone from the barre: and Teruption had in suspicion: hee denieth the fact bothe with wordes, othes and gesture: inquirie was made of whose acquaintance hee was, of them that supped together and in conclusion hee was found a meere Trainger to them all, and thereupon did seeke bothe his sleepe, & some and other places where might bee any possibillitie to hide any money but all in vaine, it could not be found he stode vpon his teares hee was a Gentleman, he was honest as the best &c. This made the company mize till at the length one subtiller then the rest commaunded his wotes to be plucked of and in one of them they found the eight shillings, manifested by tokens and in his other to the value of five pounds.

## Another.

**B** Ut if you desire to heare a subtiller kinde of knavery and such a one as if it had not bene pettie knavery for the small valuation of the thing defrauded, you might say it caries the bell away and it was thus.

A poye woman there was, (yea shee yet liveth) that used to take his dockins of beere of a byer: this woman being a boldow and having but few of meany could not well drinke the byerkin whilst it was good, and therfore a neighbour of hers came to her and called her by her name, saying neighbour, you are but few of household and I like a good husband fetch all my drinke at the alehouse if you think good I will fetch o' you if I may have so much for a penny, as I can have at the alehouse, yea marry shall  
 you



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you said the widdow, why then quoth the other let my folkes haue here when they cometh it, and when they haue fetched so much as cometh to tweluepence you shall haue money: content saith the widdow, and hurupon they departed, and the man sent ray by day for hire till it came to eleuence, & then he left fetching any more, and so it continued: In the end, the poore woman sent to him for money for her drink: money saide her god night our, why I owe you none, no quoth the widdow I haue retained so much as cometh to eleuence: I confesse all that said he, but when is my day to pay: marry saith shee, when I demaund it, nay quoth he, my bargaine was to pay when it comes to tweluepence and not before. Thus the poore wit ow was beguiled.

### An other.

I may seme needlesse to telle that which as yet is not buried in the bosome of oblivion that is how a cripple within these few yeeres within foure or five miles of London desired a passenger to help him vpon his horse, who supposing it a deed of charitie to help him, & taking him in his armes the cripple tooke him to death, and robbed him and according to law was therfore executed.

### Another.

A Whorer sometime there was who lent out much money and neuer thentie or thirtie yeeres made any desperat debt. This whorer had a man a young whelp of this tigers kinde apt to learn of his olde churle his master what might turne to his profit: Yet notwithstanding, his master kept all his dealings close from his seruant, in so much, that the seruant seeing his master made no such debts as sometimes he did, demaunded of his master how he could keepe himselfe from bankruptes?

The master kept him selfe a lowe and would not be knowen of that secret to his seruant, till a conclusion was made that the seruant should bestowe a supper of his master at the tauerne to learn the secret. The supper was prepared, the master, seruant and other friends supped and were merry: the master tolde the seruant that if he delt as he used to doe, he could make no euill debts, and

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that was that he should not take any mans bill, bond or woords but ever be sure of a good paiment worth double or treble his money in balance with a good bill of sale in open market. The supper ended, the olde seignior hauing well liquored him self & olde vessels must needs leake, would needs be gon to make water, may hise theseruant then you will leaue vs: not so said the vicer, if you think to keep my cloke, wheruppon he tooke his cloke & laft it to paiment at the barre for the shot & went his way. thus fraude was deceiued with deceit.

### An other.

**N** Of thise pceres passed, it chanced that a certaine man traue ling towards North-hampton met with an other man in a solitarie place wheras was none other but them twaine, the one of them commaunded the other to stay and to deliuer him his purse for he wanted money, the other parties famed willing, & said truly I haue but two shillings, but seeing it to so that thou wilt needs haue it heere it is, and so gaue it him & departed. This party who had the purse went forwar, and by that lost the purse famed to goe forwarde an other way, but seeing opportunitie crossed ouer two of thise closes & seides till he came and met the other theese againe, and then commaunding him to stay charged him to deliuer his purse for he was a goodfellow wanted money, and lately robbed and now must and would haue money: the other answered that he should haue none, and then after some speeches they fell to grappling together so long till the first theise was contented to redeliuer the man his olone purse and his two shillings, but the other was not so contented toke from him his purse wherelike was seven shillings and odde pence.

### An other.

**I** It was credibly reported that not far from the croffe in Cheap side in London was a Collemongers wiffe to sit with apples, who bled for her better inticing of customers to haue softe or fitte shillings in the pocket of her white Apron, which because it was so direct before her a cut purse toke great care how to cofine  
her

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her of her money (which to an honest mans minde might seeme impossible to be brought to passe.) The cut-purles man had made made many assays but could not preuaile & therefore the master-cut-purle being mowed, took the matter vpon him, and taking a cloake commonly called a spanish-cape (such as Italians daylie vse) it hath a hode hanging downe the back, he put it about him and came to her where a few many speeches he bought a groates worth of pippins of her but not hauing convenient carriage requested that she would let some body carry them home with him. The woman making answer that she had no body but her selfe he then prayed her to put them into the hode or cape of his cloake wher vpon he stayed downe with his head and she putting in the apples he put his hand into her pocket and by that meanes picked out her money a thing thought impossible.

### Another.

**I**n a winters night (some few yeeres past) a boy about thirteene or foureteene yeeres of age was sent with thre or foure shirthebands, cuffes and handkerchers therto according valued at foure pounds or there about, vnto a Gentleman lying about olde Fish-street, who passing through some part of Watling-street vpon a suddain met him a woman demanding his name his mothers name his dwelling and place wherto he was going, the boy tolde her truly all these things and so she departed going vnto another coming anon not far seated from her and tolde her mate all what euer the boy had befoze declared: which done, this other colouinge queene crossing ouer the street came and met the boy calling him by his name, asking him whether he want and so sayth: the boy wondered how she knew him and said that he knew not her, no said she, I shal beare by thy mother at Bishop-gate and I haue beene heerby of an errand and as I came along this street I spied a good shalder of mutton in a Cowes shop but I cannot haue it vnder xiiii. d. because he and I sell out, I pray thee take this xij. pence, and goe and aske for one Harison a Cowe beer in Watling-street and se if thou canst buy it, and thou and I will be merry together with it & then goe home together. The boy simply took the money & left his bands & other things with the huswife & in the meane while, she went away with the clothes.

An

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Another.

Seeing I have spoke of Warling-streat, I meane to put you in minde of an odde test (if so I may tearme it) committed in Fry-day-streat nere the said place, and thus it was.

Walters there as other traders use to set out there wares upon the stalles and such like places that men may see what they have to sell. Amongst the rest one W. C. now living, set out halfe a skin of scope under his stalle upon a barrel of pitch as the reporte goes, and so it long continued. One day above the rest, there passed by a man (seruingman like) who seeing the said half skin (without saying by your leave) take the half skinne under his arme, and away he went. The owner heare to nothing thereof, till one of the night hours serrents seeing the fact tolde him of it and he incontinent sent his seruant after him, who brought him to his master, and being asked why he stole it, desired them saying, he came not into his house for any ware, but he found that half skin in the Quenes high way, and therefore hee took it up.

Another.

A sponge pettie coforage this may also be numbred. A Country man came into Fry day-streat before named and demanded which was his way into Fry day-streat a naughtie minded fellow had him turne at the next corner and he should be cut off by and by. The fellow suspecting no deceit did as he had him e so was led amisse. And this pettie coforage is so common now a dayes more is the pittie.

Another.

As notorious a coforage as ever was heard dooth follow. In Lecester towne dwelled sometimes a weaver who heeing a perfect workemen wanted not customers to set him on worke and among others one in the towne brought him some sharte of, foztie poundes of flaxen yarne to weave, his worke ended, he brought home the cloth as the usage is, and the godwife partles knowing how much might be made of so much yarne and shape-  
ding

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story that he had stolne some o' her parrer, as if he had brought home all her parrer, yet came quoth he that I knew, but she making as though she did not believe him, her sloop as she thought judge him he had brought home ewer it but is to his knowledge, and so he did in very deed, he brought home all and yet without standing he beguiled her of two o' thys parrers in his sloop and dyces, but going away he carped it away with him backe againe.

I wonder it is to see what sleights the diuell useth to deceiue men into him as well may be noted in this, for he thought by this meanes to save his oath though he neuer imagined that it was a fault to deceiue such as put most confidence in him.

### Another.

In Melton Mobray dwelled a Carper named K. who when first he was carping, as he traualled in the high way, heard a woman ouer the hedge crying and making great moone for helpe, the man supposing it a good deed to helpe a woman distressed tooke hane left his companion and hane gone to the rescue of the woman: but his fellow traualler would not suffer him, shewing him what treacherie might be in such resembling cries, so he stayed a space, but yet hearing the importunate moone he said that he would ayde her what he might, and thereupon leapt ouer the hedge, where presently one caught him by the throat, and had not released him he had both bene robbed and murdered.

### Another.

In Colm instreat in London ouer against a Perfumers stall, met thys men or as may be suspected came thither of a set purpose and stode in the open streat, within two or thre paces (or thereabouts) of the stall and talked secretly betwixt themselves, the Perfumer, his wife and seruant busie in the shoppes, seven at ninte dayes: yet one of the thys hauing a small long wand in his hand as it should seeme hauing a crooked pipe in the end, filched away thys or foure poyre of glasses and went there way but aken, yet not suspected of such filthy actions.

Which was done.



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etene within these twelue monethes.

### An other.

**A**Bout the same time also, a boy aged thirteen or there about, entrusted by some miserrant, (for such young peeres could not promise so mischeuous a faction of themselves) got a rich fashionned much like unto those stickes which the hopyes calles handpes, and hauing the same encased with linnen, came by a Goldsmiths shop in Foster-lane and vnder a pretence of kneading the stickes vpon stalles as he passed along at the last stole his stick vpon a Goldsmiths hourse where a gilt spurre and other money, they knew not how much he got vpon his linnen stick. The spurre being waigthed fell into the currant, and they had it againe, but what money was lost it is not knowen.

### An other.

**N**otwithstanding because our Countrey-men are flattered not to be so vnyght in conversation nor so true dealers as straungers, and therefore we run thick and thicke folde to buy what soeuer commodities we want (of them leauing our owne native Countrey-men as an obstacle to the world aswell for cunning in artes and trades as also in vnyght dealing, which sure is lamentable that wee should doe cleane contrarie to nature and reason, euen allone to begger our selues and enrich others. I will by your patience shewe you a most cunning peece of knauerie this one to serue in stead of many examples. Neither is it invented as false, but euen now by sufficient proofe to be verified at this present & thus it was.

A Gentlewoman of this countrey occasioned to buy her a gowne of taffata came into Cheap-side in London and sought the mercers shops up and doونه and could not finde a peece of taffata so good as she would haue had (for women will haue the best, if it be for their owne backs especially) notwithstanding marking where the best was, came back againe and offered money for it, but not so much as the mercer would haue, whereupon there was going and sending to and fro but the bargaine could not be made.

Thus they parted, Now in the meane while a straunger a Dutch-



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Dutchwoman as I tolde, conuining to the mercers, ypen some buslines noted there buslines, noted there speeches, marked the goodnes of the tassata & considered the humoz of the Gentlewoman and theruppon bought the peece of tassata of the mercer and sent it home to her owne house, and after ward wandring in Cheapside till she espied the Gentlewoman, went into her and said Gentlewoman, I vnderstand that you want a peece of verie good riche tassata, if it please you to goe with me I will shewe you such an one as you neuer saw a better and all London can not match it: The Gentlewoman vvonderfull glad went with her, saw it and liked it exceeding well, bought it and payde some two or thre shillings in a pard dearer then she might haue had it befoze of an englishman. Well this is our shuttle nature, the parties are yet bothe pleased. The Gentlewoman passing along Cheapside tolde the mercer of her good hap and therewithall shewed him the tassata with his owne mark and seale at the end thereof, and incontinent he tolde the Gentlewoman where she bought it and in what place she dwelt, & how it was the same peece that she should haue bought of him: whereat the gentlewoman thus deceiued was out of measure astonished.

Many other like colonages might be here set downe as how the Trepe-wite was of late deceiued which now in memorie: yea many others, but these may suffice only, I will note two or thre of the sleighes of tricks and so proceed to a further matter.

### Another.

Sometime a compaie of prentices had appointed to meete at a Tauerne to breake their fast together, an houre was set, who so came not at that houre was fined at a gallon of wine besides the losse of his breakfast. One above the rest, wanting excuse to goe abroad to meet his companions, the houre being on, his master and mistress bothe in the shop that he could not start, you would vvonder what excuse he made: standing at the doore looking to his appointed place where his hart was, suddenly he ran out of the doores to his mates, stayed there some houre or more, and coming home to his master, enquired where he had beene

and

## A world of wonders.

and what was the cause of his suddaine running out of the shop: he said he, as I stode at the doore I saw H. K. your olde debtor that hath ought you money this long time, and I haue followed him till now to see him housed, and he is in such a place, & he hath promised to come and agree with you before he will goe out of the Towne.

### Another.

A Like to this is reported, that one Master H. in the Pultrie, havinge sundry Chapmen, one of them did owe him money a long season, and at last understanding that his Debtour was in the Towne he commaunded his man to goe and demand the debt, and if he make delay for the payment (said the Master) tell him from me that I suppose he taketh no care to pay in my money.

The servant went and accomplished in each respect what his master gave him in charge. When the Debtour heard him talk of care to pay his money, he replied, saying, doth thy master thinke that I take care to pay his money: no, no, he is deceived, tell him I take care & great care how to get the waire of thy master, now let thy master take care how to get his money, so; I will take none to pay him.

### Another.

A Honest man sitting or remouing from the house where he earst dwelled, wanting rounte was constrained to sell a certain bedstead. Now a young man ready to take a wife, understanding thereof, desired a Joyner a freind of his, to goe with him to see the bedstead and to haue his counsaile in it; so much as he him selfe knew not what such things were worth.

The Joyner went with him, and after the sight, they grew to bargaining, but the Joyner would not suffer the other man to give the price by five shillings and so departed.

Afterward the Joyner resorteth againe to the house alone and buyeth the bedstead for his owne proper use, defrauding his freind that put him in trust.

A most unnaturall, diuelish and detestable action, to whose shall

## A world of wonders.

a man repose his confidence in these our melle dangerous and troublefome dayes and tymes: wherein eniquitie so deceitfully and arrogantly striueth to subiect and receiue the simple and well meaning: yea in so much, that the brother seeketh to grieve the brother, and freinds deale so brusk that it is hard to repose confidence in any. A thing to the good odious, but abhorred in the sight of God.

I haue thought good, because I haue published some actions which are already imprinted to manifest (according to the offenders confession at the Sessions house) the repute, (in this my collection of false dealings and colenages) (the notorious colenage befed to M. Mascall, which because it is already extant in print. I was the bolder to note it in this collection, to admonish others to beware of the like.

The most notorious colenage that euer was  
heard of, how M. Mascall the Type-  
wife was deceived,

Written as it was spoken by the Defendant  
before the Honorable at the  
Sessions-house.

**M** Ascales wife supposed to be left rich at her husbands decease as it seemeth she was, had kindred many sisters amongst the which there was one Peters a gentleman at the least (for all be gentlemen now a dayes, who oft and many times resorted to her house hoping at the last to obtaine her good will but the widdow was carefull enough for her owne good could not by any waies be won. Whereupon Peters perceiving that wist as touching marriage to be in vaine determined to get some of her money by other means and therefore frequenting her house as before he studied to know the fashions of her house the disposition of her minde the number and names of her acquaintance friends and so much and so many of her secrets as possible he might and therewith one Daughen

## A vvorld of vvonders.

he went to a woman lying with out Bishops gate fifth instructed  
for such purposes and there asking for her they met with her hus-  
band and betwixt them there was great talke, & at the last they  
went to the tauerne where after further speech there was a pinte of  
wine sent unto the woman that should doe this feat: Not long  
after they either sent for her to the Tauerne or els they came home  
to her (I know not inether) but truely it is, they tolde her what  
their meaning & determination was, & how that they had heard  
that there was the only woman for their purpose: but shee made  
them answer that first much as she had bene divers times be-  
fore my Lord A. for such tricks as this was, she durst not be seen  
in London: for if my Lord should see me (said shee) he will hang  
me When they encouraged her saying that shee should goe into a  
Country womans gowne whereby she should not be suspected and  
she should say she came from a very friend of Mistrisse Mascalls  
dwelling in Essex and in that letter should be commendations of  
her and so forth.

When this woman had granted her consent: Peeters began  
to certifie her of all that he had learned that was, how Mistrisse  
Mascall had many suitors and how she leuies a parchment seller in  
Parer no sterrow better then any of them, also hee tolde her that  
she had a ring with five precious stones first, which ring one dwel-  
ling upon London bridge did weare vpon. Christmas day last  
past.

Hee tolde her also that there shold be some strange light or  
fire in the night in her house: as also how that the last time hee  
kissed her, her hat fell into the soure-tubbe and many other.

How shee hauing all these ad vngues (like an olde beaten sol-  
dier) would not goe till shee was also well instructed of the man  
from whose letter shee should be supposed to come and therefore made  
the two Gentlemen to goe see what fauour, what haire, what sta-  
ture and condition the man of Essex was of, least shee should be  
intrapped.

All things like an apt schollers tale learned by hart. Vaughan  
makes the letter in effect thus.

Mistrisse Mascall after commendation &c. I pray you  
show the bearer heereof (my speciall friend) what fauour, friend-  
ship and currecie you may for my sake, and so much the rather  
because

## A world of wonders.

because she hath done me great pleasure in many things touch-  
ing the art she professeth; and I doubt not but she will plea-  
sure you the like if you have any occasion: you may trauell her  
as your self; when for all things you doe for her, as you would  
doe for me if I were with you. I meane to be at London be-  
tweene this and Easter vpon vrgent busines that Thame, and  
then I meane to see you &c.

This letter after the forsaide forme being framed and sealed vp,  
the woman in her countrey like gotone taken and goeth into S.  
Nicholas-shambles, which she for M. Mascall and deliuereth  
the letter: M. Mascall calleth for a cup of beere for the messenger  
and in the meane time opening the letters and having read the  
contents taketh the woman by the hand and leadeth her vp into  
her house, and according to the tolls of all simple women show-  
eth her one roome; after another; with all the dainties thereof,  
and afterward to victualling and gossiping they goe by the fire,  
and there sit merrily some season.

You may be well assured all this pleased the messenger right  
well, and now hauing growne into some familiaritie or acquaint-  
tance the effects of the letter were reuerber: as touching the sauior  
he had done to S. Freind in matters of her art, and so forth:  
Wher vpon the trustie Roger (this messenger I meane) began  
now to worke her fast and desire: M. Mascall to shewe her her  
haind, to rich she forthwith did, and when she had looked in every  
place of her haind, she tolde her some matters touching her husband  
deceased, and moreouer that she had many satoyrs, wherof some  
were good, and other that were naught, from which she disloaded  
her and gaue her counsaile to take heed of them.

You may haue many (saith she) but yet you loue a parchment  
seller in Pater noster row aboue the rest, and there is a Gentle-  
man that is a satoyr vnto you take heed of him saith she, for hee will  
deceiue you: what is he saith M. Mascall. mary quoth the other it is  
the Gentleman that the last time hee kissed you, hee kissed you in  
such a place by the same token your hat fell into the souce-tobbe.

When M. Mascall heard that she (as most women light of  
beliefe) thought that she then knew all things, and therevpon  
falling into further talke this cunning woman asked if there was  
not some vnaccountable or some strange sight scene in the night  
time.



## A world of wonders.

thine her house. Des marry sayd mistress Spal: but doe you knowe the reason thereof sayd the other, no sayd mistress Spal, except there be some money hid in my house. There is money hid in very truth sayd this cunning woman and that good shape can you help me to it sayd mistress Spal, yea sayd the other and if you will sweare to me that you will not make any christian body acquainted with it, the mistress Spal, as the woman confessed went to a bible that lay by on the table and stoode by the contents of it neuer to open it into any. You must knowe and that the cunning Coloner liked the falling out of these matters wondrous well for her purpose, and havinge now brought them even to the very issue, proceeded in as the like order.

A mistress Mascall if to be, you desire to have this money that is hid in your house it behoveth you to have both golde and silver and Jewels to present unto the King of the Feries: I have sayde the other, and therewith led her up to her Chamber, and showed her both golde, silver, golde-ringes and a chaine of golde.

Now when she had seene these, among the rest she espied one ring which had five stones in it, this ring like the Coloner once upon a certain-hedge did weare upon Christmas day last, which was true indeede, and therefore M. Mascall hearing her say so, gave the more credit unto her wordes, supposing that she knewe all secrets.

Tell these Jewels, golde and silver were brought home and M. Mascall must put these into the Coloners lap, with her right hand and there they must rest awhile.

Then she must put them into M. Mascalls lappe with the like ceremonie, and then M. Mascall taking the foresaid things must goe into everie roome and every corner thereof must kneele downe and say certaine prayers: which finished, she must come and put the golde &c. into the cunning womans lap againe with her left hand and she receiving the same must in like order as the other had done, goe and say prayers in every place as before.

All this brought to ripenes there must be a capon and a turkie brought to feast the King of Feries, but this must be done some two dayes after, in the meane time this cunning woman must have the custodie and keeping of the money and Jewels till two dayes be ended and in the meane time she delivered to M. Masc,



## A world of wonders.

a cloth with two things in it, into a litch cloth in Maseall might not dare to looke into during time dayes, and thus the cunning woman departed with the ring, money & chain bearing amongst els but this little shewen kept in a cloth for the same.

As for if constablers had not overmastered her she had never bene taken but understanding what plate that M. Maseall had she hanged thereafter and thereafter was the foxmanned Capon and turkey to be cut and as ragles, the hie, feet and heart etc. to be cut off and every corner of the table was to be laid, a candle burning, to be set also upon the table, and all the plate set there upon as a present for the king of Feryes, then should they goe to the Canarie with some of the cunning womans companions, and in Maseall with them, and the cunning should get some lure to lead them in Maseall to come home for some thing and the spell-ger by that when should bring away the plate, but this affecting was and suspicion of colouring saying, this cunning woman was apprehended and laid in Newgate and being examined before the bench at Westons house confessed these wickedness the like in other.

How she confessed an other woman, confessed by herself at the Sessions house the fourteenth of February.

1595.

A fter she had made an end of her former discourse as she termed it one of the Judges asked her if she knew a woman that stood thereby, she made answer yes my Lord a no an other woman to, wherefore she be, whereupon it was asked how she knew her, and she made answer that about a twelue moethes past, she came to the place where this woman dwelled and enquired of some of her neighbours what Countrey woman she was as also what manner of man her husband was, how many children, how many boyes, how many daughters and many such like thing her determined purpose, which knowen, immediately she went to the honest womans house, desiring as it should seeme to be refreshing for her and her children.

The

## A world of wonders.

A certain inquisitive of her state inquired what a wretched woman she was, (who knowing her to be of the same hire) said she was a Lancashire woman and how that for continuing she was cast in prison and had remained long there. The other woman asked what she continued for, who answered for money bide, and so for those matters she was very expert, and there telling her how many children she had had, how many boys and how many wenches, how many of them alive and how many dead and many such like foolish and idle questions they grew to a resolution that this cunning woman should help her to a pot of money while she was three hundred pounds, which she promised both speed to performe, and thereupon the pocky woman not having a penny more in the world, took her leave of her fellow towns woman, and came to the house of the pocky woman, and there she did confesse at the wretched state, but the pocky deceived her, that it was three pounds or more, and so she was deceived also at the greedy Churle in such state that she labored him and robb'd upon him as upon an hog, and deceived many others, but because it is a thing worthy in print, I purpose to write them, ending with this mode of the world at Illington.

## An others

A young man and a wench there was dwelling at Illington, who were in some continuance of time loved mutually, and were to the perfection of marriage to that might commendable they then were, but the good will of parents without whose consent the same was impossible, and so they were forced to part. The young man and wench being alone but with all care, the young man when he was told that his true love was of this and after the loving manner courted another may be in the town, in such sort that the common hurt went he should marry with the latter. Understanding this the former went to Illington churchyard to see the wench's grave, and there he saw the wench's grave, and God give him joy for the wench's sake, and he should be thus in the Church the next Sunday. True it is said he, and I have nothing.

## A world of wonders.

thing but that you will forbe the banes, with that he take an  
oche forthwith, rashly you may be holde to say; as commonly in  
such causes women are, to praeue that of her faith and troth she  
would not forbe the banes.

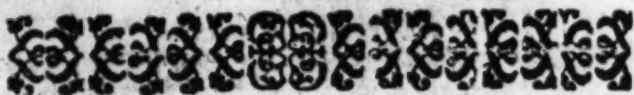
They departed each from other, the man straight waies to the  
Clark of the Church, to giue him notice of his owne name, and  
and this mayde his former loue her name also, and caused them  
two to be asked banes together, the mayde and her father & mo-  
ther that Sunday being at the Church not knowing of it, till o-  
ther neighbours & their seruants tolde that sure it was she that  
was asked. The matter examined, hee tolde the father of the  
maide, what promise his daughter had made, that if he were as-  
ked in the Church, he would not forbe the banes, therefore hee  
thought good to be asked to her welcome so long he had loved and  
loored.

Now the Parents seeing the matter had gon so far, gaue their  
consents and so at this present liue honestly together.

I might here note downe many other colozages & shuffles, moze  
then the asforesaid, but for breuities sake I will will here surcease,  
with this cauent, that people beware of many youths & others,  
who hauing got copper rings, and other such like when they meet  
such to whom they think they may beguile, they will goe to them  
and say they haue found a golde or silver ring, and offer to sell it  
for a small price.

The buyer thinking it to be golde, giues him for it thasse  
the worth and thinke that he hath a great pennyworth till truth  
try the contrarie. Therefore let euerie one beware let not faile  
wordes make soles foine, but I will comes euer to late, shode  
Iurged to some, and repentance by leasure.

Ignauiam necessitas acuit, et sepe desperatio  
spei causa est.



## A VVORLD OF VVonders.

*Rinaldo* It is recorded in antient monuments that what time Rinaldo ruled this land it raigne'd blood thre daies, and after that followed a tempest of venomous beastes which slew many people.

All this was a forewarning of great punishment to light upon the Inhabitants in this land that lived not penitently as enuied the next yeare: when so great a mortallitie hapned that this land was almost in desolation. What doer therefore (gentle Reader) thou findest in this booke assure thy self that it is written as a memorieall to day-buoke for all an everie of us daily and hourly to take into for the better and speedier amendment of our sinfull lives.

*Bladud* Bladud sometime governed this land who cunning in Nigromancie and trusting thereto decked himself with feathers and pye summing to fye over the towne of Bache broke his neck by falling upon the Temple which he there had built. A fit reward for all such as do the Nigromancie or any such vniuersall acts.

*Norindus* At what time Norindus ruled this land a wondrous monster came out off the Irish seas & devoured much people against which the King him self Neides fought, and was of the same monster cleare devoured. Beware of such hardnes.

Archigallo was thosse King of this land and Elidurus his brother thosse disposed, so that he was thosse ruler beeor.

*XXI* Catillus who ruled this land ten yeares, caused all Executioners and oppressors of the poore to be hanged, to give examples to other. I would to God they were so used now a daies: I suppose there would be a great number of blurers, bickers & sergeants.

About thre score yeares after the birth of Christ, it is supposed that Christianitie came into this land: but others write diversly, for some as Necephorus and Dowthermus say that Simon Zelotes first preached Christ here. Some say Phillip the Apostle: Some

## A world of wonders.

Some say Ioseph of Armaria that buried our Lord.

King Arthur conquered thirtie Kingdomes such as were in those dayes to be in liue.

In the raigne of Careticus and Ethelfridus was such ciuill and deadly warres that the most part of this land was buried & destroyed, and the people that were left saue to flee into Wales, the faithfull of Christ was then almost extinguisht, the Brittaines in dispaire and in subuersion to the Saxons.

But what is the cause of this pining of Gods anger euen cometowies, whosome and extoytorn: Iake by England, Iake by and repent: those times were then but euen in the booke, now be, ol e and repent, for now are they in the fulnes of their flower, and stay but for the fruite. Who are we whose dayes are so dangerous: But Lord I wake in merrie and take pittie on vs.

Then euereend Bede wrote 78 booke and in his time reuered throughout the whole world.

When Bytircus rules this land it rained blood yea that felon peoples clothes appeared like crosses.

When this land was floxed with Wolves, the Princes of V. Valerpyed 300. Wolves euerie yeare to the King of England for at that time might scarce two be found untill the yeare 994. neither sent nor for nor murren of Cattle were known in this land.

In the time of King V William the Conquerour was scarcitie and dearth that men did eat hogges, cats, dogges pen and many fleshes.

Anno 1093, was such a famine that there shing such and so great a most attie that the quich were scant able to dea.

As in the yeare 1099. we read that blood spilling out of the earth at Finchamstead in Barshire.

Such about this time the water of the riuer of Trent at Nottingham was dyed by scum one of the clock till thoe.

The like destication of water in the Thames at London by dyng suffr about foure yeares after.

The 14. of February at Ectisbury bring then their Faire, such number of flies and beetles dammed Denern that for the length of a Butts W: were in men for gement vllamed about a hundred quarters.

Beda wrote  
78 booke.  
Bytircus  
Wolves  
300  
King of England

X



## A world of wonders.

A wonder of wonders befel in England throughout 1133. for there was great darkness throughout all the land and the sunne appeared no otherwise then as the moon when she is in her last quarter.

Giraldus Cambrensis in his booke of the description of Wales telleth that in the Countrey Kemaries, yea in his time a young man named Scyllian bozme in those parts, was so tormented w<sup>th</sup> toades as though all the toades in the Countrey had bene gathered together to vex him, and when as innumerable numbers of them were killed by those that kept him, & by others of his freinds and kindredmen, yet came they still increasing in greater numbers then before, insomuch that when his acquaintance perceived no help, after many assaies they loped all the boughes and leaues of a very high tre and closed him in a coffin made for the purpose. so hotted up into the said high tre, but not withstanding paye Scyllian was still molested with them. for they creeping up w<sup>th</sup> wonderfull heapes left him not til they had eaten him up to bare bones and so dyed.

About Orford in Suffolke certaine fishers take in their nettes a fish in all pointes shaped like a man, which fish was half a peare kept in Orford Castle for a wonder. He would eat all manner meat but most greedily rats fish, he was shewed in no kinde of wo<sup>r</sup>ship. After men had wounded at him, he was little & seemed of awd so not being looked vnto stole away and was neuer heard of. 1188.

In the yeare 1230. a suddain darknesse chaunced in Poules Church euen at service time so one could scant see an other. Also about this or foure yeare afterward, five humes to be sene in the ayre as also two great dragons flying and fighting together during a whole day, the one day chased the other to the deepe sea.

After all these folowed great warres and troubles in England Wales, &c.

Beholde all Cornhoures a wonderfull example not fained but by sufficient testimonies to be approued done euen at home.

In the yeare 1234 was a dearth in England as true histories recorde (euen as now also there is) so that many dyed for want of victualle. Wherichmen as now a dayes were diuelled w<sup>th</sup> covetousnes, so that they would not relince them that were in the  
cessitie



## A world of wonders.

cellid. Amongst tohonic (a thing worthy noting) was one Walter Grey Arch-bishop of York, whose come being first years o'be, doubted that the vermine would destroy it, and therefore commanded to deliver it to husband men; that whilst in his manours upon condition as much new come after the next harvest, and would distribute none of it to the poore for Gods sake.

Now it fortuned that when the men came to a great steele of corne that stode there to the tolone of Rippon belonging to the said Archbishop and had opened the corne, there appeared in the sheaves the heads of wormes and of toades, and horrible serpents, yea and a voice was heard out of the mothe saying lay no handes one that cometh to the Archbishop and all that be hard in the steele.

This being heard, the left it; and the bayliffes of the Towne were faine to bulle an high wall round about the toles, and then to let it one fire least the venomous vermine should have gotten out to have payned the corne in other places.

Beholde this true example and repent thou covetous richman and doe good whilst time is offered thee, and God will bleesse thee the better,

A sea-bull was taken passinge the shames as far as Motlake in the 15. yeare of the reigne of King Richard the 3.

It is most aproued that in the sayd Kings reigne ther dwelled in the Dioces of Lincolne a woman of noble birth, both well favoured and beautifull who being married to a rich man in that countrey beare to her husband many children and yet not with standing (wonderfull to tell) the sayd woman got another gentle with child and begate of her three sonnes one after an other or euer the mother came to light the woman were named *Hauissia* and *Lucia*.

In King Edward the 1. reigne flesh of beasts was so corrupted that men durst not eate thereof, such murraine of beasts and cattell was then that men and women stole Cattes and did eate their owne children, some fatte dogges, hoxses & such like. Prisoners, plucked in peeces such as came netwop to them as prisoners & eate them haule a line so greuous a mortalitie of people folloved that moeth the quicke were able to bury the deade. Lord deliver us from the like.

About Chippingnorton in Orfordshire in the yeare 1344 was found a monstrous serpent, having two heads and two tailes.

## A world of wonders.

As like the one face attired of the new fashion of attyren  
 then spring up, and the other face attires after the like civil fa-  
 shion and like a hat of divers maner.

And shall we say these were teachers of Gods lawfully sent  
 to move us to repentance and leaving of our new devised pride of  
 apparel.

*Indes day  
 in the  
 2. Supper*

But what then may be said of the strange birds as to be seen  
 then by Richard Waller, and Richard I. sellon, within the shi-  
 rish of Colwell in Leicestershire, even upon the other day in  
 November in the year 1586 which birds were a contrary col-  
 our having feathers upon their backs as fronts growing & flank-  
 ing out very like the frilled and curled haire of most men and wo-  
 men in these times, yet having also great feathers about their  
 neckes growing and flanking very high, very erect and in the  
 very forme of our greatest set of russet, being diversly coullered  
 both by both sides quills resembling the topes commonly cal-  
 led haystackers, which would (in my judgement) might fitteth the  
 matter so that in very truth they are the suppressers of sinne and  
 of many iniquities.

It were therefore consider how their soules being taken would  
 walke there and there together in most stately forme, and after-  
 wards turning bill to bill stand as it were consulting, it might be  
 imagined they did but resemble the most exquisite, stately, and  
 strange dances of women in their own dances as also their go-  
 stops talks and inventions of new fashions and dances.

But gentlewomen consider what you are and whereto you  
 must turne: A painted wall is but a deceit to the buyer, and a  
 painted bee is but a deceiving of the soule.

Consider that a simple soule surpasseth thousand of the moste  
 gorgeous attired bodies of this world: Leave off the yoke of the  
 Precech, and take the humility of the Dove, for when agitated  
 with upon you you your selves will repent your former pride, and  
 acknowledge it more than die.

Upon Christmas day in the the 25. yeare of the reign of H.  
 Richard the second a Dolphin came out of the sea within London  
 barge shewing him selfe playing but after there followed great  
 tempests.

The posterne gate of London where the Tower in King Hen-

**A vver' d' o vonders.**

ry the first day's lunch was the frozen state into the earth at the same season.

Wonderfull and strange it is to tell how in the 1594 the  
house of one Alice Hachney which had bene buried in the Church  
of Saint Mary-hall in London by the space of one hundred three  
score and fiftene yeares was taken out of the ground by a grave  
maker, both the bodie of thimselfe and also her for nts. pleable, not be  
minished.

This body being able to taken up, is reported that after so long time lying in the earth to his four naves above ground to the pain of all consumers, not smelling nor dropping of any, and then buried again.

This (as it seemeth to me) verifieth the saying of reuerend Bede our Countryman, who affirmeth that there be three dayes in a yeare wherein inboſomer is borne the hoodes ſhall not conſtinue untill the day of Iudgement.

In the yeare 1551 at Middleton shewen imple from Drifd  
a woman brought forth a Child with two bodies from the na-  
mill in such sorte that when they lay a length the one body e bro  
lay as it were east-ward, and the other head and body lay west  
west-ward, the legs for 2 bodies grew out at the midst whereas  
the bodies joined and they both at one issue too both the bodies

There were women, children and lived eight days. They

About that time when the Gray Grovers was made an hospital, ten great Dolphins were taken and brought to London the least thereof, was bigger then a horse.

So strange it is to consider both Confessing times in most miraculous ways provideth for the people, as may be read in the days of Queen Mary.

The twentieth of December 1579, a Poulters wife in Christ Church-parish within Retigate was delivered and brought to bed of four daughters all alive.

A place by the seaside all of barabara and pebles commonly called a shell, lying betwene Mosby and Alborough in San Mark, wher was neuer was knowne to be either grasse or earth, but all wailes bare and barren, suddenly by Gods appointment spring out of the same without labour or tillage such great abundance of peason that the poore Indja bitants there gathered (as it was then

## A world of wonders.

then suted) aboue one hundred quarters and yet notwithstanding there still remained pease some rype some greene and some in the blossome, euen in as a great a quantitie as they were before they were gathered.

About the same time also a great fish was taken the length thereof in length very sweet and pleasant to be eaten.

In the yeare 1557. before harvest was such a dearth, that wheat was solde for foure marks the quarter, mault for foytie foure shillings, pease at foytie six shillings the quarter, but it pleased God to send such a harvest, to ensue presently vpon that dearth that wheat was solde for fife shillings a quarter, mault for an noble, Rye for ten grotes, and all this so solde at London, in the cuntry it was better cheape.

Let vs repent vs of our wickednes and beginne to loue one another as we ought, and doubt we not but God will euen now doe the like for vs in this our dearth although in mans iudgement it presumptuous may be made to the contrary.

Some monstrous birthes befall in the yeare 1561 then in many yeares before.

A spaw brought forth a foale with one body and two heads and a thing like a tayle growing out betweene the heads.

Also a Sow farrowed a pigge with foure legs like to the armes of a man shode, with hands and fingers.

Also there was an other Sow which farrowed a pigge with two bodies, eight sixe and but one head.

Winters children and beastes were brought into the world in monstrous fashons but most to be noted, is how many had resemblances of crosse growing about their necks and this without fable.

The xviij. of february 1570. at a place called Kinnaston near Marlech hill in Herefordshire, a strange thing was seene that was the ground to open. and the ground with certaine rocks to remoue, and went so; ward so; the space of foure or thre dayes to wit saturday, sunday and monday, and in due and thurthe houre it remoued so; the paces euery pace fife fote carrying both trees and sheepe coats yea sheepe and all in them, some trees falling into the chynkes others remaining firme as before others that to so; stand east stand now west: et sic e contra.

Kinnaston

## A world of wvounders.

Kinaston Chapell was ever this way with it, and the big  
waye sland with hedges and trees are removed trees and all  
an hundred yards from their accustomed places, where tillage  
ground was, there it was pasture left in place thereof, and where  
as pasture ground lay there tillage ground hath gone spent, the  
ground as it was mowed dyane the earth before it, and at the  
lower part ever intrenched the ground so that it is now a great hill  
highed above the twelve fathome: it brake out at first in the west  
the side, the breadth of the earth being right square yards, and the  
ground in all being twentie six Acres.

It is like also hapned within these two yeares, being a wonder-  
full example and worthy the marking.

The 9th July 1574, in the Ile of Cynet a monstrous whale  
was taken, who wanting water dyed with such roaring that he  
was heard a mile off. His length was two and twentie yards  
one of his eyes being taken out was more then six footes could  
draw in a cart, a man might stand upright in the place, where out  
his eye was taken: between his eyes was twelve fote in length,  
thre men might stand upright in his mouth: his ribbes being six  
teene fote long, his liver was two cart load, and any man might  
creep into his nostrils, which was wonderfull.

A wonderfull and a notable Example for such as be swearing  
and for swearing them selves.

Anne Auery coming into the house of one Williamson at  
Woodstreet in London to buy six pintres of Olive or hardesse,  
having had the tolve and being demanded money, after many  
vaine speeches and flibby oathes desired of him that she might  
first where she should if she did not pay for it. Got into a tuff,  
sent his iust judgement upon her, so as forthwith she sunk down  
into the ground, not able to stand, the use of that her blasphemous  
oath: getting taken away, and she remaining speechlesse  
call up at her mouth (that bell of sinne) the filth and excre of  
her body in great quantitie and with horrible stinking, which  
by natures course should have been voided betwene ward, and in  
this sort continued which was not long till she dyed.

I might here also put you in minde of the like perjured called  
father Lee, dwelling about Foster lane, but to the wise this may  
be a warning: as for such as are commonly called knights of the  
post



## A world of wvounders.

**I**f in conscience think no otherwise but that they are even reprobat & hated of God and beloned of the diuell. God for his Christes sake giue them grace to repent and amend.

Even as before is false as concerning perjury, so in a manner may bee sayde of other enormities, as of whoredome, hardnes of hart to the paye, unmercifullnes of brethren and such like, in which extremitie, God neuer leaueh such as trust in him, as may well be seene by the pealon growing in the rock before mentioned as also by one William Lumley a paye man dwelling in Elmston in the countie of Worcester who being cast into prison & there continuing, with in thre dayes after his imprisonment had a mare which foaled vnto him a mare foale, which immediately after had such an odder of milke that she gaue for a long time together euerie day thre pynes of milke to the great comfort of his paye wiffe and children. A wonderfull prouidence of God and worthy to be noted especially of such as hauing superstitie yet euen for the smallest debtes care not to what trouble and hard imprisonment they put their paye brethren that God suffers to waite for their further indgement and condemnation I feare except they repent and be mercifull as Christ him selfe is and hath commaunded vs to be so likewise.

Marke heer an notable example of such as practice any vnlawfull artes.

The 17 of January, 1577, Simon Penbrooke dwelling in Saint Georges Parish in Southwarch suspected for a Conturer, and therefore summoned to appeare before the Ordinarie, at St. Saviours Church, standing by his protoz, when euen as the Iudge came in he fell downe ratling in the throte, and next spoke word but dyed presently: in whose clothes were found sixe diuelish bookes of conuocation and a picture of a man made of tyn, hauing thre dice in his hand with this insyting: chance dice fortunately. A fit rewarde for such vile varlets as make lawfull artes ill spoken of, and detested by their ungodly lyes and practise of diuelish deuises.

But sith I am now rehearsing of wounders and woonnons shapes, I will heer declare as straunge a matter as euer was heard of.

In the yeare 1588, was a widdow named Margaret Owen,  
aged

## A world of wonders.

aged fifteteene yeares into had an hozne, foure inches long moke miraculouſly growing out of her forehed & ſhine to her noſe, and there crooked towards her right eye, and was then growing ſo faſt that ſhe was faine to cut it, leaſt it ſhould blemiſh her ſight.

The woman was to be ſene aſwell in London as in other places of this Realme, neither can any naturall cauſe bee knowne thereof, but a wonder that God hath ſent.

Many are the reportes, but whether they be true or no I leaue to your iudgments: for ſome affirme that in her youth ſhe was not ſo loyall to her huſband as ſhe ought, and that diuers times there hath bene ſpeeches tending to that purpoſe betwixt her huſband and her, whereupon he ſuſpecting ſaying ſame to be true, that ſhe was light of behauiour, & charging her with it in theſe tearmes, that ſhe had giuen him the hozne, it is ſaid, that ſhe not only denyed it, but wiſhed of God that if ſhee had giuen her huſband the hozne, that ſhe might haue one hozne growing out of her ſtone forehed as a witneſſe againſt her to the wonder of the world: (God only knoweth whether it were ſo or not) if it were, I counſaile all other aſwell men as women to loke to them ſelues and not to commit ſinne upon ſinne: firſt, in committing ſuch an horrible offence and adu'rie: and ſecondly to cloake the ſame, to call vengeance on their beds. Remember the woman that ſoſwore her ſelf for a ſmall ſumme of money: the olde ſaying is: It may be ſpoke in ſuch an houre, as God may ſay Amen.

This woman inhabited in Wales in the Towne and pariſh of Llan Caduſine in the Countie of Moungomerye and at the rote of this hozne beganne, another hard knot even as the other beganne which ſhe uſed to cut off leaſt it ſhould proue alſo another hozne.

The mercifull and louing kindneſſe of god vnto ſinfull people hath and is ſo greates that he longe time ſuffereth vs befoze he puniſheth vs he ſeldom puniſheth except he vſe ſome maruelous operation befoze hand to moue to repenſance to ſoſwarne vs of the anger depending our heads, as fatherly admonitions, as may well be perceiued, by this that followeth.

About the yeare 1579 or thereabouts, in Aberwick in the pariſh of Agglingham in the county of Northumberland, dwelled one John Wyne a piper, vnto whom it pleaſed God to

## A world of wounders.

send by his wife Elianor a daughter, and by repoyte a godly child.

The wife being deliuered and each thing (as in such cases requireth) ordered, the midwife glad of the womans safte, called the sayd John Waine to his wife, and tolde him that it had pleased God to send him a godly daughter.

A daughter quoth he with a sterne and ang.ry countenance, if it be a daughter the diuell take my parte for me, for it is none of myne: and so departed murmuring, without any thanks-giuing to God for her safte deliuerance but rather tempting God, as most of vs doe, God be mercifull vnto vs, but make the sequel.

A yeare or two after about the yeare 1580 which is not long since that it may be forgotten, or fained as a lie, it pleased God to send his wife to be with child againe, and to be deliuered of a monster, a male according to his desire, hauing the shape of two Children, from the shoulders upward. it had two heads, hauing naturall proportions, sauing that the one eare of each head was shapened like an horse eare, and the other like a swine. The body greater then usual, hauing two face, and two armes, proportionable, and was borne dead.

Loe here God his iudgment sent vpon him that murmured against his creator, what would he haue sayd if it had pleased God to haue sent him this, when he sent him the daughter? But he seeing this wonderfull worke, as it is reported, acknowledged his offence, and cryed to god for mercy: which God graunt vnto vs all, he that shed his blood vpon the tree for vs. Amen

## A memoriall of certaine most notorious witches, and of their dealings

There dwelled not so long since, but that of some it may be remembered. In Barking in Essex seuen miles distant from London a Witch named mother white-coate alias mother Arrowold alias mother Glassenbury who committed many execrable factes, as may appeare.

There was dwelling in Barking one Thomas Clark a fisher who hauing angered this witch, went forth in mackerel time

## A vworld o vvouinders.

time to catch flounders, and he and two boyes sayling boiome almost as farre as Le where they cast out his nets, in the same place was such an meddy that he could by no meanes wooth, neither his nets come in order, as they should do, but upon a sodaine this Clarke cryed out and sayd that he sawe mother Arnold the witch walking in the water, and withall cryed the spirit entered into him and monned him to kill him selfe so that hee take a hatchet, a booke and a knife and thre in them overboard and after sped he himselfe about the middle with a rope and so fell mad, so that the boyes cryed unto other fishermen, who seeking to help him, there was a whirlepoole that had almost cast them away so that none durst come ner them, atlength a boat of Greenwich perceiuing the whirle poole thre to a roape unto them and so pinched him into his boate and so brought him home to Barking where he remained mad, and lying still bound cryed out of mother Arnold, and in the end dyed thus tormented.

The said mother Arnold going in procession with other her neighbours in gangtooth and William Daulbie seeing her very likely came vnto aces behinds her and strake by her beekes giuing her a fall, and after thrust him self into the prease of the people to the intent he might not know who did it, but she crying came immediatly to him taking him by the hand thanked him for her fall, and sayd she would be even with him.

They went to one Malles house a mile and a half from Barking where she complained of the poisoning man and after some blame was giuen her by the god with went homeward againe.

Malles wife and Daulbie going to Barking together a good pace but could see no eye of her, till they came by Barking, where she sat a praying vnder a tree, and so passed by her, and so went home, where being not a quarter of an houre, but Daulbie was so miserably torred, that he sought to kill himself, thrust his head into the smoking tub full of wimes meat, where he had smothered him self if help had not prevented it.

Then would he haue runne into an hottie ourn to the burning fire brand with his head that hee burned his mouth and lippes very sore: where might come his friends had him to bed, but his desperation growing worse and worse and he feeling his bowels being within him (as a pot sitting on the fire) could not endure the

## A vvorld of vvounders.

the bed but lay for the most part all the night out of a window which he had byted with his teeth that it may be perceived still, so long as the window endureth, and in these miserable cases continued. At last helped by another witch, was at the Assizes bound to appeare at Burntwood where he gave evidence against mother Arnold in the hearing of her stone daughter, who after came to him and saide you have given those evidence against my mother but you will be little better for it. And the next night following, rising to make water was stricken in the neck that he fell sick and was saide to be brought from Burntwood to Kainford in a Cart, and so from thence home, being pitiouly tormented till he gave up the ghost.

When Master Clement Sisley Esquire had examined this witch and tolde her she should goe to prison, the witch desired that she might not goe to prison, for the spirit would be reuenged as it hapned when he took paper in his hand to make his warrant suddenly both his feet were taken from him by reason whereof, he fell on a plaine pavement of flag stone in his stone house at Cassburyhall and strook out the buckle bone of his thigh out of the joint, so that for thre weekes space he could not goe, nor stand along time after her execution but used stilts for necessities sake.

But before he committed her to the Gaole, he caused her to be searched by honest wiuues who betwixene her hercheff and her hat found wrapped in a linnen cloth swines dung, the herb cherwell still, red fenell and saint Johns wort, the right hand of a sponlewarpe, which upon the opening so stanch that no person could abyde it.

After the finding of this she kniued downe vpon her knees, desiring them if she might not haue the whole, yet to let her haue some part thereof, but the same by the commatgement of the Justice was burned.

[ F ] I should write at full the manifold mischeifes of this most detestable practitioner, they would fill a great volume, as by the laured Newman of Stratforde a farmer, who she stole  
an



## A vvorld of vvonders.

an handkercher from his wife and a ter five dayes keeping it sent it backe againe by one of her neighbours. who deliuering it, faire, and white, to Newmans maye, presently there fell three dropps of blood vpon it one after a nother, and the maide amazed giuing it to her mistress it became all ouer red as blood most wonderfull.

Also howe shee bereed one Harison being a Dutch man meeting him at Mue-end and stroke him so lame that he was faine to hire a horse, to carry him home, and bewitched him dumbe, that he could not speake: and made his horse to shake, and dance, for the space of one whole yeare.

Also howe shee threatened George Male at the Grayhound at Barking that for so much as he thrust her and her daughter out of his dazes and would giue them nothing, this witch threatened that she would set a Wee in his tayle the next time. Pea and that a singer says the daughter. So not long after he determining to ride, put on a new payze of hose with a double rugge in them pypled fortie shillings. the first day of his riding he was so tickled in the buttocke, that he scratched through all, both hose and lymings and such a hole in his flesh, that it was not whole a moneth after.

Many other mischett's might be here numbred, but I meane not to stand long vpon these detestable actions onely this to be noted, that being often examined, when she was to answer suddenly there rose in her thyoate a swelling as bigge as a mans fist, black as pitch, and then she seemed to haue the hiccough, as though she would speake but could not, and in this case the examiners would strike her on the brest but she required them not to doe so: And when she was executed such a stinking vapour issued forth of her mouth that the behoulders were scantie able to endure it. All which is moste wonderfull.

I might here noate the cruell deuises of mother Bumby the witch of Rochester: the tyrannie of the witches of VVarboys, and many other, but for breuities sake I omit the, putting them in memoie of one the moste strange of all other, committed in March 1592, near Harrow on the hill.

One spasser Edling having a barne at the towne end, his servant Richard Bucke going thether with a mastiue dogge at

## A world of voulders,

for him, sit downe espied an hote to start before him and let his dogge at her, but the maister vsing the chafe ran round about the fellow whispering pittisfully, but the fellow left not till he saw the bare take in at one mother A chins house, knowen to be a notorious witch.

He fell to preclusing this, blessed him self and had an aunt witch, which turned to his woe for a moneth after as there about he going to his masters barne againe met this mother Ackins and had her good mayroto, but the witch would not answer.

The next day hee went to the barne againe and carryed with him his owner and going to his victuals about none hee sawe a monstrous black cat, among the strawe shaking it, wherat Richard rising up from whence he sat, heard a voice commanding him to come away.

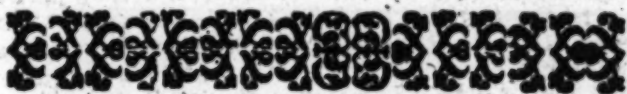
Come away thought he whether shall I come the voice sayde againe come away and leave thy victuals behinde thee and thy huse also; the fellow amazed went into his victuals in his hand to the barne dooze and there was hoisted vpp suddenly into the ayre and carryed ouer many feldes by the way espying his masters plough plowing but not able to call to them from thence he was hoisted ouer to Harrow over that side of the hill, whercon there is a great pond of water thyngh which was drayne mosse pitrouly that there he lost his hat and then was violently rapt by the hill, and ouer the toppes of the trees by Harrow church but beinge haled further, he was taken into a place which was all fire wherin was such lamentable crying and howling as all the damned soules had there, such shrieks, such surlines, such noise and such heat that it made him so thicke that he knew not what to doe: where vpon he hauing but one penny in his purse remembred it, and looked round about for an alhouse where hee might spend it. But perceivinge no such matters but hearinge varietie of voices supposinge some had spoken into him he replied saying, heere is no worke for me to doe, it was reanswered againe, cast away with him with this proviso, that thou bee secret w hen thou comest home: wheruppon Richard sayd my maister wi la: he mee where I haue been and with that his tongue was coulered in his mouth that he could not speake, his legges burned, his armes and hands scorched, his coate pined of its back

## A world of wvounders.

back and thorne into the fire and immediately was again cooſed over hedges and ditches ſcorched in myze and burnt ſcratched with thornes and bypers end finally to be ſcorched, ſinged and diſfigured that it is no moſt lamentable to beholde him.

Chas being brought againe to his wonted place as dwelling he went to a ditch to drink and after to a friend of his being now abſent ſoure dayes & as then able to ſpeake, his maſter not knowing him at the firſt, but after wards with much a doe his tongue being unſounded he tolde all the ſtory as you have heard, & would not be quiete till hee had ſayd his blaſt of wretched Atkins ſince which time hee is amended.

Chas haue you heard the moſt notorious fact that ever witchcraft hatched, omitting many other, from all which our god God deliver us. Amen.



## A MASSE OF Murthers.

**I** It is read that ſometimes Richicus ruled in this land of England and was poſſoned by his owne wife.

A whoore dwelling without Aldgate in London in the dayes of King Henry the ſixt was murdered for her gades: the murder paſſing by the place where hee had committed the fact, was killed with ſtones, ſhapes hoznes, kennell being and ſuch like by the women of that party that threwe them at him: and this was the reward of murder.

In the raigne of King Henry the eight a ſtranger was hanged in chaines for ſlaying his maſter one Capon in a garden for his harlot. Loether the proffit and gad of harlots.

ſuch about that time was Margaret Danie a widge ſervant boyled in Smithſeld for poſſoning of three ſeynall houſholders with

## A world of vrounders.

with whom she has dwelled.

In the 5 yeare of King Edward the first, Maister Arden of Feuer sham in Kent, was murdered by the consent of his owne wife for which first she was burned at Canterbury.

In the yeare 1554 a Spaniard was hanged at Charing-crosse for killing of an englishman.

In the yeare 1571, Rebecca Chambers, was burnt for poisoning other husbands.

A most shamefull murder was committed about the thirtieth foure of May the same yeare by one Martin Bullock in this sort, Bullock had procured a Merchant named Arthur Hall to come to the personage house of Saint Martins in Thetwilde street, in London, to buy plate of him: whereupon this Hall desiring the shew of the plate, in due, this plate is none of yours maister Bullock, for it hath Doda; Carvers mark vpon it, and I know it to be his: that is true sayd Bullock, but he hath appointed me to sell it for him. Now Bullock suspecting this robberie thus to be detected, ran into a further condemnation both to God & man: for whilst Arthur Hall was wiping the plate, Bullock went into the kitchen and fetcheth a beaule washing betle wherewith hee camming behinde Hall, strooke him on the head that he fell him with the first stroke, and then strooke him againe. and after tookes Halls owne dag ger and sticht him: with his knife cut his throte, and after would haue trussed him in a darsk chest, but the same was to short: All heruppon he turned him downe a paye of staires thinking to bring him in the sellos. but he being stiffe and the sellos staires narrow and winding he could not drawe him downe, wherfore he tooke an hatchet and cut off his legs and trussed him vp with strawe in a dyssat saying it was his apparell and bookes and caused it to be carryed to the water side and carryed to Rye.

The yeare 1573 was one hanged in chaines in Saint Georges field neere London for murthering the Taylour of Hortham in the sayd field.

The 25 of March 1573 George Saunders a merchant was murdered most shamefully by George Browne by the instigation of his owne wife and other her complices.

A youngman was hanged in chaines at Milesend neere London the twentyninth of February for murdering a man in a Garden

## A world of wvonders.

ben.

In White Chaple parish near London in the yeare 1584 dwelt one Cornelius an outlandishman a Shoemaker, who had his wife living with him certaine time, this woman had a Daughter married to one Arnold a Cobler, who retained into his service a Dutch mayde taking his neer kinswoman, and Arnolds wife had a sonne at the being a youth of reasonable peeres, who scilicet the mayde was in the house, would often be familiar to with her, yet nothing suspected for any lewd dealings betwixt them, till Cornelius his wife dyed, and the mayde went to dwell with Cornelius, wherupon this youth gat the mawe with childe, and was partly sene during the tude by a little boy the Constables sonne of that precinct, which he shew to his fellow servants: who nothing regarding his wordes sayd not any thing thereof, so that the mayde having talk and of a reasonable proportion went so long w<sup>th</sup> childe till the time of her labour was suspected, which time of travell happened even the selfsame day that her mistresse should be buried, at what time the householde busied in winding the dead corpe, this mayde departing from the women, went to a back chamber in the further parte of the house and after some small time, was delivered none heeing neer the place, but the soynamed boy who layenight in the ronne underneath.

When she was delivered, she endeavored to strangle it, by laying her hand vpon the mouth of it, but the Childe heeing strong cryed so that the boy in the neether rooms heard it, wherupon she took a knife and laying the childe vpon the flares cut the rhoules of it so deep, that a man might haue laid foure fingers in it, and having thus ended her most vnmaturall fact, cast it into the yaine, and went about her busines, without any signe or suspicion of any such sickness.

But the boy partly perceiving that it was the maiides childe, went priuely to one of the cheif servants and tolde him what he had heard, and that partie tolde it afterwards to one of the neigbours, wherupon the cry of the Childe came in question. & so to examination and search, wher she confessed the matter, and wherupon the childe was taken by and had the law, and she committed to prison, had iudgement according to her desert and was executed at Chourne.



## A world of voulders.

But this one thing is to be noted that being demanded of the  
 iuices who gaue her that unnatural minde a mischeuous help.  
 to kill the Child, answered that the diuell was with her and  
 helped her to dispatch it in that manner. Thus much haue I  
 thought good to note at large, forasmuch as it is more blual then  
 any other and is the more odious, inasmuch as it is engendered of  
 two most heynous actions: First, of whoredome or adulterie  
 which is worse; secondly, of murder. Let this then be a look-  
 ing glasse to all maydes wherein to bein the rewarde of stithnes  
 lest they incurre the like danger and penaltie.

I Flosse of welch affray thy minde,  
 If slickes dyre oppresse thy hart;  
 If losse of freinds alyed by kinde,  
 If all or more torme t with smart,  
 Yet help in time in y succour these,  
 Before colde death dooth clame his fees,  
 But if that maedenhead be wrackt:  
 Then maydens name and fame are crackt.  
 And cannot be restorde againe:  
 But dooth her stock with blemish staine,  
 No heith, no welth, no foe, ne freind,  
 Can breach of maydenhed amend,  
 Beware then maydes: I you exhort,  
 loue, liue and dye in honest sorte.

A most notorious murder committed by an Inkee-  
 pers wife in Lincolneshyre vpon a traualler, a matter  
 woorthie to be knowen of all Trauallrs.

A honest man traualling vpon busines into Lincolneshyre,  
 not being able to reach so farre as he purposed the day tour-  
 ing toward an end, he himself wearied, and hauing some charge  
 of money, ryding through Carthroe not far distant from New-  
 ort vpon Trent vnderstanding of lodging in the Towne, at the  
 house of one Tompson a man of honest reputation, went thither,  
 requesting the goodwife of the house that he might haue lodging,  
 and

## A world of wvounders.

And in secret sort opened to her what store of money he had, and requested a chamber where his charge might be safe, the wife very willing granted, and seemed so carefull that she would that night lodge none that might be suspected persons: Supper prepared and ended this traveller going to bedde laid his money t'n' at his beds head, having locked the doze and the key sticking in the inside.

The hostesse and the rest of her family gone to bed, for y<sup>e</sup> good man of the house was rydden from home about certaine busines, and knew nothing o' this, the hostesse incensed by the devil could not rest for casting in her minde how to get the travellers money wherefore when she thought eadie one was in their dead sleape, she went to the Chamber doze where the traveller lodged, and having a sleight to open the lock by a little hole in the dooze. She went in and found the mans knife, (she hee the subtiltie of sathan) to direct her to his knife as the instrument, which she took out of the sheathe, and laying her hand upon his mouth that hee might not cry out cut his thyoate with his owne knife, and being thus mortally wounded, he began to struggle with her but all in vaine: so, shee soon bereaved him of his best toy in this world and tooke away the money.

How to cover this her abominable act she fastned the mans hand to the knife, which she left sticking in his thyoate, and so departed. Her smock blooded in the action (other clothes she had not) upon her when she committed the fact) she put off and put on a cleane one, hyding the other, least by that meanes shee might come in suspicion by her servants: for none of them were made privie what money the traveller had.

The morning coming, she with her household arose, and nothing was sayde till the day dawning well on, shee sayde to her maybes that she marvelled that the traveller lay so long, having a journey to goe, and therupon, had one of her maydes goe up to see if he were sleeping, who knocking at the doze and hearing no answer, at last thrust open the doze by force and went in, finding this most lamentable spectacle. The mayde amazed ran downe, and tolde her mistresse, who after a most vile fashion counterfeted swooning, but was comforted by neighbours.

A quest is panned, verdict given, that he him self was guilty

## A world of wvounders.

of his owne teach and therupon to persecute the maymed cozyn  
yet further if it might be. he was buried out of christian mans ta  
rya 1 and so was it for thre or foure nythes buried vp.

But what is it that God in his secret iudgement let I not dis  
close it, ought it to be neuer so impossible as at thre or foure mo  
nethes after, this Inkepers wife carryed cut her blunted smocke  
to a poore woman in the towne desiring her to wash it saying that  
she had stiched a pig and t er maybes had no leasure to washe it,  
the woman take it: behold a wounder, unnder cannot be hid  
the more the woman washed it the more frether began the blood  
to looke and the cl: the more blacker, which is amazed the poore  
woman and troubled her in minde so that she could not be quiet  
till she had tolde the Constable, who imagining what after  
proued truth, take other of his neighbours and went to the In  
kepers wife who after some examinations confessed the matter,  
and had the law at Lincolne and was executed for the same.

A wonderfull example it is and worthy to be noted and remem  
bered as well of Inkepers to keep sure lackes without counterfeitt  
eyes, as also to take heed what seruants they keep to be of honest  
reputation.

Not far from Lincolne at a towne called Bourne were thre  
brethren whereof one was a countrey mercer who had married a  
very honest woman who had of her owne a prettie peece of land,  
to dispose as she thought good during her life, and after to come to  
her husband if he survived.

Her husband this mercer being an unthrift would haue had his  
wile to haue the land, which she would consent  
vnto, being surely perswaded that being gone, to haue rought  
left to help her self withall. This her husband not pryncpling,  
broke his minde to his other two brethren, whereof one was a  
butcher who counseled him to deale extremly with her who not  
preuailing, they met all thre at the mercers house and their con  
cluded to murder her, threatening the maide of the house to  
kill her also if she betrayed them whereupon they forced her to  
holde the candle while they did the deed, for the butcher after his  
butcherlike trade quickly patched her of her life. But the mayd  
going abroade revealed the matter whereupon they were appie  
brent

## A V World of v vounders.

berded, and had the law accordingly.

Wonder it is to see to what sort affections and most wicked and abominable practices we are lead to for want of grace: Some to murder for wealth as in this example, and also the example upon Towerhill where the sealer killed the widdow for her goods, Nottingham also can testify it where one killed his owne mother for her lands, and many other, some upon highways as Glouer who killed their grant Grace, the Cooke to Sir Iohn Street, that killed his wife and in first others.

I might here set before your eyes what mischiefs have followed to masters by over hard wages of their apprentices & servants a matter to be looked unto for some are brought up to idle to proudly, to wantonly with to much excess both of meat and apparell which brings them to lewdness, to lying, to robbing, to whoredome, to imbealling of their masters goods and such like, others on the contrary part want both apparell and sustenance & besides and moore unreasonable set to tasks to working upon Sundayes and holydayes forbidden, beaten and corrected out of measure and moore unchristianlike used, whereby they are forced for want of further remembrance to runne away as to filth & steal to have victualles to runne to a further mischance. amongst which I might remember the Butchers servant that sometime dwelt in Finchlane: Also George Collins sometimes Apprentice with Richard Hairon tapio in Fanchurch who being badly used his master sought to kill him which he performed being unable to doe such a fact, and was for the same executed, but because these and many others and yet fresher in memory and writing then that they may yet be forgotten.

It shall be needlesse to reporte unto you the most heinous murder committed upon the Chaudlar here broken till here in London the matter being so fresh in memory, the malefactor still hanging as a notable example to our eyes, a grief to the goodly a terror to the wicked and reprehensible: to which God graunt for our Lords

Amen. AMEN

FINIS.